

## **Willow Lake Use Plan (WLUP)**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q:** Will public events be allowed on the lake?

*A: Applications for special events should be submitted to DOT&PF Aviation Leasing. Contact Information: (907) 269-0740.*

**Q:** Why was no public meeting held or comment taken before the plan was signed?

*A: DOT&PF's Commissioner is responsible for decisions about the operation, improvement, protection, and maintenance of airport property. In the interest of public safety and welfare DOT&PF's Commissioner has revised the original WLUP to better align aviation and non-aviation uses at Willow Lake.*

**Q:** Can I continue to participate in recreational activity on the Lake?

*A: Yes. The WLUP states that Willow Lake is open to the public for recreational uses including boating and fishing.*

**Q:** Where can I recreate on the Lake?

*A: Buoys will be placed to delineate a "Boats Keep Out" area at the northeast end of the Lake. This area is for aircraft use in engine warm up. It is unsafe for users other than aircraft to be present in this restricted area at any time. This area may be modified in the future after observation of actual lake activities to balance between users.*

**Q:** Under what conditions will DOT&PF modify the dimensions of the "Boat's Keep Out" area.

*A: DOT&PF may revise the dimensions of the "Boats Keep Out" area to ensure sufficient, but not excessive, spacing between aircraft in the northeast corner and non-aviation, recreational users. The dimensions of the "Boats Keep Out" area may be revisited from time to time. The WLUP does not require specific dimensions*

**Q:** Why is the Lake Use Plan limited to just the summer season?

*A: To DOT&PF's knowledge there has not been a history of aviation/recreational use conflict to warrant a winter Lake Use Plan. We issue a NOTAM in the winter stating there is no winter maintenance; land at your own risk.*

**Q:** What is the process for resolving conflicts between different users of the lake?

*A: Conflicts should be reported to the airport manager at 907.495.6286. DOT&PF will handle all reports on a case by case basis.*

**Q:** Turnover occurs in ownership of residential properties around the lake, how will the guidelines outlined in the WLUP be communicated to users each year?

*A: The WLUP contains information regarding how the plan can be accessed.*

Q: The WLUP refers to “good neighbor” safe practices. What constitutes “good neighbor” safe practices?

*A: Participants at the April 27, 2016 open house are encouraged to submit suggestions on what they believe would be appropriate “good neighbor” safe practices for Willow Lake. Suggestions can also be submitted to the airport manager at 907.495.6286, or by placement in a “comments” box to be installed at it Willow Lake, at the information kiosks. Additionally, comments can be emailed to dot.cr.director@alaska.gov. Upon receipt of comments, DOT&PF will publish and post a list of good Neighbor Safe Practices, which may be updated from time to time.*

Q: Will the Department consider assessing a fine against users who violate the Lake Use Plan?

*A: DOT&PF anticipates that adherence to the WLUP and “good neighbor” safe practices will minimize the need for enforcement action. Alaska Administrative Code, 17 AAC 45.020 (j) and (k) authorize DOT&PF to take action to correct violations of the WLUP.*

Q: The WLUP states “to avoid interference, docks must be of a reasonable width and length.” Where can a Lake user go to understand what dimensions are considered reasonable?

*A: Lake users should look to existing dock sizes for guidance. Lakeside property owners are encouraged to contact DOT&PF’s airport manager at 907.495.6286 in the event they are considering constructing a new dock or modifying an existing dock.*

Q: The WLUP references the Alaska Boater’s Handbook. Why?

*A: The handbook provides practical information for boating safety. Willow Lake is a state lake, not a U.S. Navigable Water. Therefore the “International Navigation Rules” in the Handbook are not enforceable on Willow Lake.*

Q: The Willow Lake concept map made available at the April 27, 2016 open house and published online and posted at the lake shows a buoy at the Southeast side of the lake, 200 feet from shore. Does that buoy give direction to aircraft on takeoff and landing?

*A: As stated in the WLUP, the buoy provides guidance to aircraft while on the lake surface, to include taxiing and surface operations during takeoff and landing.*